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CAMPUS

March kicks off Black Student Government conference

By Kayla Meyertons
@kemeyertons

More than 300 black students from universities around the country marched on campus Thursday night to celebrate the coming weekend of educational achievement and campus climate discussions in the black community.

UT kicked off the 40th annual Big 12 Conference on Black Student Government on Thursday with a march to the Barbara Jordan statue at 7 p.m. The participants started at

the Martin Luther King Jr. statue on the East Mall and were led by members of the Manor High School band.

The Big 12 Conference brought together black student associations and black student alliances from the Big 12 schools to come and form ideas on how to further the presence of black students at predominantly white institutions, said Kayla Storrs, admissions counselor at the University of Oklahoma.

“(The conference) is a place where a group of collective minds can come together and

collaborate and figure out what are we doing on this campus that works, and formulate it and structure it to also work on their campuses,” Storrs said. “Somehow, we can all use the exchange of ideas to further what we’re trying to accomplish on campuses across the country.”

Corporate communications junior Dorian Maloy said the conference takes place every February to coincide with Black History Month at different schools in the Big 12 with a weekend of workshops and

career building.

“Everything is still very positive,” said Maloy, parliamentarian of the Big 12 Council. “No matter what, everybody is coming from good hearts, good minds. Basically we’re really just here to lean on one another and know the differences we have to make.”

Maloy said visiting black students get the chance to grow, improve resumes and make connections they otherwise wouldn’t make.



Joshua Guerra | Daily Texan Staff

Government junior Jennell Benson speaks at the kickoff for 40th annual Big 12 Conference on Black Student Government.

MARCH page 2

CITY

‘Day Without Immigrants’ mobilizes protest downtown

By Lisa Dreher
@lisa_dreher97

More than 400 protesters marched downtown Thursday as part of the national “Day Without Immigrants” in response to the federal government’s recent crackdown on undocumented immigrants.

At 10 a.m., a rally of about 200 people convened outside City Hall, where council members later that day approved granting \$200,000 in emergency city funding to cover immigration legal fees.

Cities around the country took part in the “Day Without Immigrants” strike, during which students and employees of local businesses went on strike for the day to display how the immigrant population accounts for America’s workforce. Hitzel Betts, an Austin Community College



A crowd gathered at Austin City Hall on Thursday afternoon as part of the “Day Without Immigrants.” More than 400 people protested and marched through downtown.

Joshua Guerra
Daily Texan Staff

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ALUMNI

‘Moonlight’ star stresses diversity, individuality

By Reagan Ritterbush
@Reagan0720

Trevante Rhodes once walked the streets of Austin as a student. Now, he’s returned as the star of an Oscar-nominated film.

Rhodes, a UT alumnus and actor in the 2016 movie “Moonlight,” visited UT on Thursday night after a screening of the film at Hoggs Auditorium to discuss his recent movie and to open up a space for students to talk about healthy masculinity.

“Moonlight” chronicles the life of a young black man from childhood to adulthood while struggling with issues related to drugs, race and sexuality. Written and directed by Barry Jenkins, the film has received eight Oscar nominations, including Best Picture, Best Director and Best Adapted Screenplay.

“It’s a story about all of us,” Rhodes said. “I know people in my life who have gone through moments like the ones in ‘Moonlight’ and knew

I had to be a part of something so beautiful.”

Rhodes said the film encourages people to discuss individuality, especially during a time when it is hard to be unique.

“On its best foot, the film allows us to be the individuals we strive to be without fear,” Rhodes said. “Everybody has to learn to love themselves. Love is the most important thing we have.”

Rhodes also spoke about the issues of masculinity and sexuality and how the film gave him an important opportunity to learn about problems he never dealt with as a child.

“I was gifted to have a mother who told me to be myself and never fear who I was,” Rhodes said. “But there are some people who don’t see themselves in a positive light because of the way other people view them. I believe conversations and films give us an opportunity to explore how people deal with

MOONLIGHT page 2

WEST CAMPUS

Urgent care clinic closes doors on Guadalupe, moves to Burnet

By Chase Karacostas
@chasekaracostas

The MedSpring Urgent Care located at Guadalupe and 21st streets closes permanently tonight at 9 p.m.

Open since August 2011, the clinic served the University and West Campus residents on both a walk-in and appointment basis. It is replaced by an already-open location on Burnet Road.

“We opted to close this location out of convenience,” said Nerissa Sardi, vice president of marketing at MedSpring. “That particular location, while it’s in a busy area, doesn’t have a lot of parking, which is not very convenient for a lot of folks who need urgent care.”

The new location at 7212 Burnet Road is almost five miles from campus, but it is located along major bus routes to ensure access for University students.

All patient records at Med-



Angel Ulloa | Daily Texan Staff

The MedSpring urgent care on 21st and Guadalupe streets will be permanently closed Feb. 17th. The center is shutting down due to decline in business.

Spring are secured and stored digitally for easy access at all locations, so anyone who visits the new clinic or any of their other locations won’t have to share all of their medical information again, Sardi said.

In addition to signs on the clinic’s windows, MedSpring’s website also includes a notice

informing visitors of the closure. The clinic has already moved its x-ray equipment to the facility on Burnet Road, which means they cannot provide x-ray services at the Guadalupe clinic right now.

Biology freshman Christine Huang said she will

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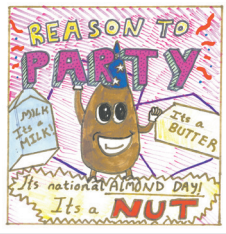
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ONLINE

Texas Board of Education plans to finalize decision of evolution curriculum.

Read more online at dailytexanonline.com

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TOMORROW'S WEATHER

High 83 Low 62

It's Friday, my dudes!

FRAMES FEATURED PHOTO thedailytexan



Juan Figueroa | Daily Texan Staff

Raymond Sepeda a UT landscape services employee mows the lawn by the Joe C. Thompson Conference Center on Wednesday afternoon.

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the labels placed on them.” Undeclared freshman David Lunan said he enjoyed learning about the struggles involved with being a gay man of color in this current political climate. “This film really touched on the social justice politics surrounding the U.S. right now,” Lunan said. “It was interesting to witness the portrayal of

minorities in a loving light.” Management information systems junior Oby Umelloh said seeing how Rhodes’ character learned to cope with the world he grew up in and how he came to terms with being gay really impacted her. “This movie was a learning experience for me,” Umelloh said. “It was astounding seeing how someone’s world shapes how they deal with situations and life in the future.”



Andrea Velgis | Daily Texan Staff

UT alumnus Trevante Rhodes speaks to students after a special on-campus screening of Oscar-nominated movie “Moonlight” on Thursday.

STATE

Senate bill calls for convention of states to amend Constitution

By Claire Allbright
@claireallbright

Texas Senate Committee on State Affairs voted Thursday in favor of Senate Joint Resolution 2, which calls for a convention of the states to propose amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

The committee’s vote sends SJR 2, Gov. Greg Abbott’s fourth and final emergency priority, to the Senate floor. If passed this session, the resolution would make Texas the ninth state to have a current application for a convention of states, said Sen. Brian Birdwell, R-Granbury, who authored the resolution.

Birdwell said a convention of states is required in order to keep the federal government from infringing on the power of the states.

“Members, I believe that we are on the precipice of history we have not seen before,” Birdwell said. “(This is) the only way to save this republic and federalism as a whole.”

SJR 2 also specifies three types of amendments that could be considered during a convention of states: those placing term limits on elected officials and members of Congress, those imposing fiscal restraints such as a balanced budget and those limiting the power and reach of

the federal government. Only Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo, voted against SJR 2. Several senators, including Sen. Jane Nelson, R-Flow-er Mound, and Sen. Bryan Hughes, R-Mineola, said legislators should proceed with caution.

“I would urge anybody who came today, anybody who’s listening to come forward with their ideas for how we can make this a product that will accomplish both our goal of asserting our state sovereignty and yet protecting that very precious document of Constitution,” Nelson said.

Article V of the U.S. Constitution says amend-ments can be proposed if two-thirds, or 34 states, pass legislation similar to SJR 2, which calls for a convention of states. Birdwell said in 16 states, at least one legislative body has passed an applica-tion, and 44 states have filed one. Although allowed by the Constitution, there has never been a convention of states.

The committee also passed two other pieces of legislation pertaining to a convention of states.

Senate Bill 21, called the “faithful delegate bill,” would provide structural guidelines for how delegates to the con-stitutional convention would be chosen.

Under the bill, delegates must be a member of either house of the Texas Legisla-ture at the time the conven-tion is called. Birdwell, who also authored SB 21, said this would increase the delegate’s accountability to the Legisla-ture and their constituents.

Hughes voted in favor of the bill but said he would work with Birdwell to tighten restrictions on the delegates to hold them accountable.

“I can’t think of a bigger responsibility we can give any-one,” Hughes said.

Sen. Craig Estes, R-Wich-ita Falls, was absent during the committee meeting due to illness, but his res-olution, SJR 38, passed the committee unanimously.

Nelson, who introduced SJR 38, said it would re-scind Texas’ previous appli-cations for a constitutional convention prior to this legislative session.

“(This bill would) provide a clean slate for any actions taken this session,” Nelson said.

State affairs committee chairwoman Joan Huffman, R-Houston, said the three pieces of legislation and their proposed amendments will be presented and debated on the Senate floor before the entire body votes on the legislation.

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“The result isn’t just people get hired,” Maloy said. “It really is just to get the idea that we are all experiencing different things.”

In previous years, members of the Big 12 Conference have rallied around other campuses when racial discrimination has taken place on campus, such as when the MLK statue was egged at UT, organizers said.

Organizers said the confer-ence is not only about discuss-ing campus climate and ways to address racism and events on campus, but also to bring the “brightest black minds” — who are required to have high GPAs to attend the conference — from universities around the country to UT, organizers said.

“It’s about student develop-ment and how you can grow as a leader on your campus,” said Brenda Burt, an African and African diaspora studies lecturer. “But it’s also looking beyond; like when I graduate, these are the things that I want to do.”

Special education senior Jes-sica Jackson, conference chair for the UT Black Student Alli-ance, said the conference is an important mechanism for black students to learn how to express their thoughts and opinions professionally on a college campus and in a workplace.

“We want to be able to act professional,” Jackson said. “We take concerns to our advisers, (and) we have personal school advisers. We try to go about it in a systematic manner.”

Jackson said the confer-ence will host workshops Fri-day and Saturday, in addition to an awards banquet gala Saturday night.

THE DAILY TEXAN

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CITY

Council increases funds for immigrant services

By Van Nguyen
@nguyen_van

Legal and counseling services for immigrants in Austin received a \$200,000 boost from the Austin City Council on Thursday.

The funding is added to an existing contract, in place with the Catholic Charities of Central Texas, through which immigrants learn how to secure legal status in the U.S. as well as receive legal counseling. Representatives from the organization said the amount of people seeking counseling per week has shot up from 25 to 40 in the last month, according to the Austin American-Statesman.

The recommendation was proposed by council member Greg Casar, who held back tears as he spoke at the meeting, according to the Statesman.

“We have a history in this country of standing up for immigrants, of standing up for everyone’s Constitutional rights,” Casar said. “And we also have a history of coming up with degrading labels for people whose rights we want to take away.”

One dissenting opinion came from council member Ellen Troxclair, who said helping immigrants is a role for nonprofits and suggested a smaller amount of public funding with private matches from others.



Joshua Guerra | Daily Texan Staff

Council member Greg Casar speaks at the “Day Without Immigrants” protest outside City Hall on Thursday afternoon. A \$200,000 boost was granted to the legal and counseling services for immigrants in Austin.

Troxclair said she believes some immigrants are here seeking asylum, while others are here for more toxic activity, according to the Statesman.

“There are also people

who are here who have committed heinous crimes and who have been accused of sexually assaulting children and domestic violence,” Troxclair said. “I think the thing we have to

understand is that this conversation is driven by fear on both sides.”

Troxclair’s comment brought criticism from Casar, who accused her of spreading fear and lies by

tying immigrants to crime. She responded by saying she would continue to defend conservative ideologies, even when they are treated as irrelevant.

These funds come at a

time when federal immigration officers are currently operating in Austin. Over 51 people have been arrested since last Thursday in the Austin-San Antonio area.

CLINIC

continues from page 1

miss the convenience of MedSpring’s long hours. University Health Services is only open on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., while MedSpring is open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. all week long, including weekends. Huang said the few times she went to the clinic, they had rapid ser-

vice and always made sure to explain her medical issues in an easy-to-understand way.

“Before coming to UT, I would always go to MedSpring back home, so it’s something that’s familiar to me,” Huang said. “Not having them near campus makes me a little nervous, so I was a little upset that they’re closing.”

Compared to other urgent

care clinics, Lauren Shkolmick, a health and society sophomore, said MedSpring was a lot cheaper, and she appreciated the way they treated her injury with immediacy and concern.

“My experience (there) was really good,” Lauren said. “And honestly, I’m kind of sad (that they’re closing) because I think it’s a great location. I mean, I needed it, and it was right there.”

CAMPUS

Near the end of the panel, Rep. Gina Hinojosa discusses the need of Texas’ Rainy Day Fund for supporting Child Protective Services.



Anne Morris
Daily Texan Staff

Outside Capitol, lawmakers continue to debate priorities

By Mikaela Cannizzo and Claire Allbright
@mikaelac16 @claireallbright

Two Democratic and two Republican Texas lawmakers butted heads Thursday night over issues including sanctuary cities, school finance, the Rainy Day Fund and Child Protective Services.

In a panel discussion organized by the LBJ Future Forum, three house representatives and a senator advocated for their positions on these divisive topics in front of a crowd at the LBJ Presidential Library.

Moderator Ben Philpott, a KUT senior editor, began the conversation by asking legislators to provide a definition of a sanctuary city because it isn’t clearly outlined in the bill.

Sen. Dawn Buckingham, R-Lakeway, said a sanctuary city is any entity that does not uphold Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainers. These detainees, provided by the federal government, request cities to turn over custody of

illegal immigrants to ICE for potential deportation.

Senate Bill 4, a bill which would ban sanctuary cities statewide, was passed in a full Senate vote last week. Rep. Trent Ashby, R-Lufkin, said he believes it is premature to speculate the outcome of the bill in the House.

Philpott said the school finance system is regarded as a legislative priority every couple of sessions. This year, the proposed House budget would put \$1.5 billion toward education reform, and the Senate budget addresses the issue as well.

While all legislators agreed the school finance system is broken, each highlighted their own priorities.

“Education is the one issue that if we don’t get it right, I don’t know what else matters,” Ashby said.

The debate also turned to tapping into the state’s economic stabilization fund, commonly called the Rainy Day Fund. Ashby and Buckingham said they were hesitant to use the funds on recurring expenditures, but

Rep. Gene Wu, D-Houston, and Rep. Gina Hinojosa, D-Austin, said they see the fund as a chance to address problems they believe need additional funding.

“You have a very large pot of money that continues to grow that we’re not earning interest on,” Wu said. “You spend when times are bad, you save when times are good.”

Hinojosa said rainy day funds could go toward initiatives such as fixing Child Protective Services, which was named as an emergency priority by Gov. Greg Abbott.

The Senate budget provides an additional \$260 million toward CPS funding, and Buckingham said she expects Senate Bill 11, which aims to reform child welfare, to pass out of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services in the upcoming weeks.

Ashby said issues concerning the budget were going to be some of the hardest to address this session.

“Ultimately, the budget reflects the values of the state of Texas,” Ashby said.



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FORUM

Help us determine The Daily Texan’s future

By Jordan Shenhar & Emily Vernon
Daily Texan Forum Editors

After a controversial election last year in which Alexander Chase took office despite losing the popular vote to sole opponent “Reset my vote,”* The Daily Texan is pleased to announce that two of the opinion department’s most talented and best qualified staffers — Laura Hallas and Janhavi Nemawarkar — are running to represent the UT student body as Editor-in-Chief.

Because both are considerably overqualified

for the job, our editorial board won’t offer an endorsement in the race. Instead, each of the two candidates will make their case directly to the student body through a pair of editorials, the first series of which comprises today’s Forum.

The topic assigned by The Daily Texan Editorial Board is how both our newspaper and the University should react to controversial, extreme or outright hateful rhetoric. This semester, white nationalist and neo-Nazi signage has proliferated on and around the 40 Acres, while student protests have become both more frequent

and more bellicose. As such, we feel the subject is an important one for all candidates to address, and especially pertinent for those seeking to shape media coverage of campus affairs.

Our coverage of Student Government elections continues with an Executive Alliance debate on Feb. 20 (6:00 p.m., WEL 3.502) and a candidate Forum next Friday. Also, be on the lookout for our second series of candidate editorials, where Nemawarkar and Hallas will each write on a subject of her choice.

We’re also still curating regular Forum content during the election period, so as always, don’t hesitate to reach out to us at editor@dailytexanonline.com to join the conversation. We look forward to hearing from you!

**Editor’s note: This is fake news. Chase won his uncontested election in the largest landslide in Daily Texan history — period.*

Shenhar is a Plan II, government and economics senior from Westport, Connecticut. Vernon is a rhetoric and writing sophomore from The Woodlands.

FORUM



Zoe Fu | Daily Texan Staff

Students have tools to fight bigotry, promote free speech

By Laura Hallas
Candidate for Daily Texan Editor-in-Chief
@LauraHallas

Half a century ago, Martin Luther King Jr., John Lewis and other civil rights heroes peacefully marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. They were met by police officers under the orders of the white supremacist Governor George Wallace, who tear gassed the protesters and beath them with batons. Images of the brutality shocked the nation, and led to the introduction of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 in Congress.

Last week, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell rebuked fellow Senator Elizabeth Warren for reading a letter written by Coretta Scott King — the widow of Martin Luther King Jr. Within hours, the text of the letter was trending on Twitter, and millions more Americans now know Coretta Scott King’s words and have adopted a new feminist battle cry: “nevertheless, she persisted.”

These two incidents are decades apart, but both display the fundamental consequences of suppressed free speech. Public attention and support have a way of flocking to the perceived underdog when messages or beliefs are undercut extrajudicially.

This message is clear in the context of the civil rights movement — don’t suppress us, because it will only motivate us to come back, stronger. However, this effect also extends to intensely unpopular, even morally repulsive messages.

For example, self-described “alt-right” speaker Milo Yiannopoulos was recently blocked from speaking at UC Berkeley following violent protests against him. But to what effect? Berkeley students came away with a repressive reputation while Yiannopoulos emerges with an air of victimhood. The use of violence to suppress a controversial but legally organized event propagates notions that the primary victims of today’s society are white males, especially conservative ones. The inaccuracy of this sentiment goes overlooked when its target audience feels embattled and self-righteous.

Vigilante attacks on less-public individuals have the same effect. Just this past week, a student’s identifying information was posted on University kiosks along with implicit encouragements of violence against him — presumably because of his political views. This should concern all students. Explicitly targeting fellow students for their controversial beliefs will only drive them further from participating in productive discussion, granting basis for victimhood. Furthermore, this behavior turns campus into a battleground where we fear our beliefs and affiliations will be used as a basis for inciting violence against us via vigilante attacks. Not that these tactics work — just ask any Texan columnist. The sometimes violent, always

personal threats that stream into our office are uncomfortable, but don’t silence those with a message to share.

Students come to the University of Texas to be informed, not intimidated. Facts combined with constructive activism will serve us far better than violent intimidation or vigilante identification. Students have the privilege to invite speakers, peacefully protest, and publish opinions. These are powerful weapons, and we should be prepared to use them in the face of ideologies that threaten our university’s stated values.

And if Yiannopoulos wanted to come to campus? Let him show his ignorance, but with preconditions. Provocateurs’ platforms sound incoherent once they’re actually aired. As the New Yorker noted, a university would never allow an alchemist to lecture in Welch, at least not without a line of chemists to contradict his every claim. Yiannopoulos may come if he likes, but he should submit to some fact checking in order to speak. Universities can protect free speech and host controversial speakers without compromising their informative missions.

Granting someone an open stage can feel uncomfortably close to an endorsement. The University should allow civil rights leaders and immigration lawyers to speak alongside such a speaker to prevent false equivalency. If this option doesn’t exist, students should fight for such a policy or review process. By focusing on the content of the event rather than the event itself, students can shed a critical light on blatant lies without denying the right to peacefully speak.

It is important to note that speech that incites immediate violence is a dangerous category of its own, and cannot be passed off as simply controversial. Legally called “fighting words,” this is an exception to the First Amendment, and cannot be tolerated.

Student media, including The Daily Texan, serve at the crossroads to protect free speech while rejecting hate speech. For example, white supremacist group known to buy advertising space in student newspapers, a tactic the Texan fell victim to in 2013. However, there are safeguards in place, in the form of advertising policy statements that notes all advertising material is subject to review, and potential rejection, by a board of students. Similarly, op-ed submissions are subject to review by the editorial board. Joining media organizations and writing well-researched opinions helps students shape policy and discourage hate speech.

Whether in speaker events or op-eds, truth is the litmus test for publication. Anger and impassioned opinions are healthy responses in a free society, but lasting change comes from strong shows of truth, not vigilante attacks or violently silencing opinions. To fight hate, we must maintain our institutions.

Hallas is a Plan II, economics and health and society sophomore from Allen.

FORUM



Yifan Lyu | Daily Texan Staff

UT must protect students of color from hate speech

By Janhavi Nemawarkar
Candidate for Daily Texan Editor-in-Chief
@janhavin97

The frightening rise of the “alt-right” (the benign term that white supremacists and neo-Nazis have given their movement) as an increasingly acceptable political ideology has given some of its spokespeople platforms beyond social media. Richard Spencer, who was invited to speak at Texas A&M University, and Milo Yiannopoulos, who on his tour of college campuses was invited to speak at UC Berkeley, are both spokespeople for the movement.

In both cases, massive student protests broke out. At A&M, protests occurred during Spencer’s speech. At UC Berkeley, violent protests caused the University to cancel Yiannopoulos’ invitation. The resulting national outcry asked whether these protests were fair — and whether these speakers should still be allowed to speak on campus under the First Amendment.

But we must learn to balance the protection of free speech with the fight against the normalization of these racist ideologies. There is a distinct difference between engaging in a contentious dialogue and the type of hate speech that emboldens racists. It is the role of students, organizations, student-run media and professors to ensure that open, wide-ranging discussions continue on campus. But in the interest of supporting students of color, students and university administrators must draw a line and ensure that individuals who espouse specifically hostile views are not validated by receiving a platform to speak here.

Make no mistake: What Richard Spencer and Milo Yiannopoulos advocate constitute as threatening ideologies. Spencer introduced the term “alt-right” and advocates for the creation of an “ethno-state” for white people. And Yiannopoulos — an editor for the right-wing “news” website Breitbart — is an Internet troll who regularly spouts outrageously offensive statements and was banned from Twitter after he led a deeply misogynistic and racist online harassment campaign against “Ghostbusters” actress Leslie Jones.

Students of color and undocumented students have every right to feel threatened by the exposure given to those who joke about returning to a time akin to Nazi Germany, openly disdain minorities and immigrants and believe women should only bear children. Speech can’t be taken in a vacuum — Donald Trump’s presidential election victory was accompanied by an outbreak of hate crimes around the country, including on college campuses. Although he didn’t explicitly

“There is a distinct difference between engaging in a contentious dialogue, and the type of hate speech that emboldens racists. It is the role of students, organizations, student-run media and professors to ensure that open, wide-ranging discussions continue on campus.”

condone the crimes, his anti-immigrant rhetoric has certainly emboldened white nationalists, who celebrated the outcome of the 2016 election as a victory for their own movement.

Students are understandably on edge, and their right to protest peacefully against the invitation of these individuals must be respected. And universities must stand by their students — they cannot reasonably claim diversity as a strength of their student body without supporting their students of color. Otherwise, they continue to protect only the hegemonic belief structures that are already in power.

Free speech and unfettered exploration of ideologies different from our own will always be protected by those who understand the value of a university. ATX Resists and other organizations of their ilk that attempt to organize against anti-Muslim posters and fascism are well within their rights to do so. The poorly thought-out and hurtful Young Conservatives of Texas’ anti-affirmative action bake sale might have been protected by First Amendment rights, but the resulting mobilization of the student body inspired a dialogue that ultimately brought to head dueling points of view on affirmative action.

But even in the classroom, we accept limits: when we analyze World War II we are never under the impression that Nazi Germany was sympathetic. We can still engage with one another — as long as we have a fundamental understanding of each other’s humanity and rights.

Free speech is still the fundamental, bedrock value in our democracy — and the value that comes from engaging with viewpoints different from our own must always be protected. But we have an obligation, as students, student-run media and administrators, to never welcome white supremacists and neo-Nazis to campus under the guise of free speech.

Nemawarkar is a Plan II and government sophomore from Austin.

SOFTBALL

Longhorns honor Lewis with tight victory against Hoosiers

By Leah Vann
@Vanntastic_Leah

Former Texas softball announcer Terry Lewis' voice echoed in the stands Thursday night after a Longhorn victory over the Indiana Hoosiers, 2-1.

The Longhorns started their first game of the Texas Invitational on a somber note, circling the pitcher's mound to honor "Big T" Lewis, who passed away in August at age 58. Shivers of silence wove through the blankets and hoodies of the crowd as Lewis' wife, Missy, fired the first pitch.

Wide left. The gloved hands clapped together as Texas and Indiana took the field.

"He always just brought

this great energy and liveliness to the game," senior pitcher Tiarra Davis said. "You can still sometimes hear him. His presence is still here at this field. It's hard not having him, but we're glad we got to remember him today."

The first inning showed the most action on both sides. A fielding error by senior third baseman Celina Felix got the Hoosiers on base early, but the Longhorns quickly made up for it with a double-play on second and third. Junior pitcher Kristen Clark followed up with her only walk of the game before sophomore outfielder Reagan Hathaway caught a fly ball to seal the third out.

Senior shortstop Devon Tunning ignited the bat and

put the Longhorns on the scoreboard with a home run in the first inning, sending senior outfielder Stephanie Wong home from first.

"She just continues to see the ball well," head coach Connie Clark said. "Her mechanics, she's just so quiet up there and she knows exactly what she's looking for."

The Longhorns aimed to vamp up their offense, but Tunning and Hathaway tallied the only three hits for the Longhorns.

Most of the weight was carried by Clark on defense, only recording one earned run out of Indiana's six hits.

"It wasn't a big strikeout night, so it was a lot about pitch to contact," Clark said. "So trusting the defense. I

knew if I made my pitch, the defense was going to make their plays."

Clark's strikeouts came at three critical times. At the top of the fourth, Clark avoided a close call with two runners on base by striking out Indiana's junior shortstop Aimilia McDonough to conclude the inning. Indiana's junior third baseman Rachel O'Malley pounded a fly ball to the left center, skimming Wong's glove for a double to bring in first baseman Taylor Uden for the Hoosiers' score. Clark struck out two subsequent hitters to close it out for Texas.

"She only issued one free pass, one walk," Clark said. "They're a bit of a free-swinging team, so they were able to put the ball in play but



Mary Pistorius | Daily Texan Staff

Junior pitcher Kristen Clark picked up her second win of the season against the Hoosiers on Thursday night. Clark struck out three batters during her seven-inning outing.

were'n able to square her up too much because she spotted the ball and induced that contact. I was proud of her on that; she really stayed the

course and attacked strike zone all night."

"Big T" was proud too, looking down from his seat in heaven.

TRACK AND FIELD

Hamilton leaves footprint in final season

By Uttam Eamani
@TheDailyTexan

On Monday and Tuesday, they call her Ms. Hamilton. On Wednesday and Thursday, they call her Mary Beth.

Student-teacher Mary Beth Hamilton found success last weekend at the Husky Classic, breaking a 17-year record in the mile with a time of 4:39:11.

"It's so cool to hang my name on the wall of this program," Hamilton said. "I'm very new to the event ... it was my third time running it."

With her fourth season coming up, the senior is excited to shave off several seconds to climb up to a top-16 ranking and qualify for the NCAA Indoor Championships.

"The Alex Wilson Invitational is the (ideal) meet for distance running," distance coach Brad Herbster said. "(The meet) is predominantly last chance for DMR



Rachel Zein | Daily Texan Staff

Senior Mary Beth Hamilton looks to carry the momentum from her record-breaking mile race into the upcoming Alex Wilson Invitational on Feb. 18.

(distance medley relay) to get in."

The Longhorns are looking to qualify for the NCAA meet in the distance medley relay for the first time since 2010, while No. 28 Hamilton aims to claw her way up to a top-16 ranking in the mile.

"(We) just want to go where the majority of people go and get it done," Herbster said.

The Alex Wilson Invitational in Notre Dame, Ind., begins on Feb. 18.

BASEBALL

continues from page 7

There are always obstacles in any transition from a former coach to a new one, but the Longhorns seem to understand that the most important thing hasn't changed.

"It's been a little bit different for the last few months, but it's still the same game," junior pitcher Connor Mayes said. "He's done great things while he's been here, and we're just going to continue to play the game we play ... It's a new beginning. Coach Garrido did great things here, but we're excited to do great things for Coach Pierce."

Pierce's first game coincides with a new start for a batch of freshmen who are ready to lead Texas back to prominence.

"It's a new year," freshman pitcher Blair Henley said. "I'm excited because we really haven't thought about last year or the year before. We are making a name for ourselves from now on."

Pierce said 12 to 14

“It doesn't matter who's the coach or what players there are. It's Texas baseball, and we're expected to be in Omaha every year.”

—Michael Cantu,
Junior catcher

different players have earned a spot on the field, so he plans on utilizing their strengths in various lineups. He believes the versatile roster could make noise right away.

"I've never been into waiting till I get my guys," Pierce said. "These guys in the clubhouse now are our guys. That's how we've always coached ... I think we have a great team, I really do. Health is always an issue, but if we can stay healthy and we can get that confidence going, we have a chance to do damage this year."

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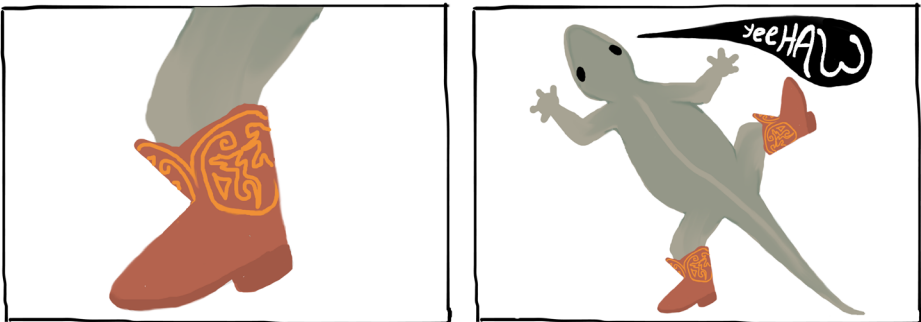


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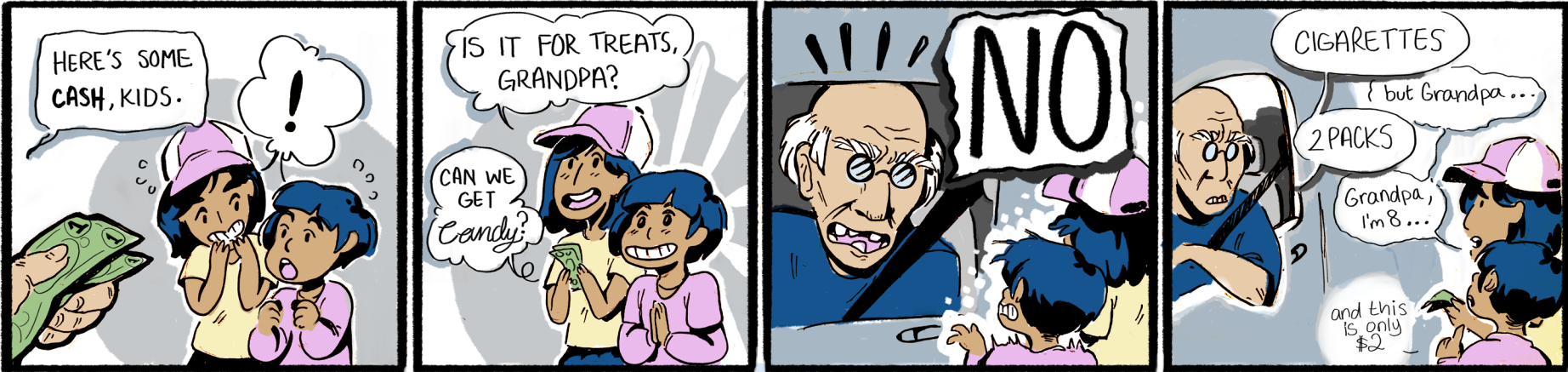
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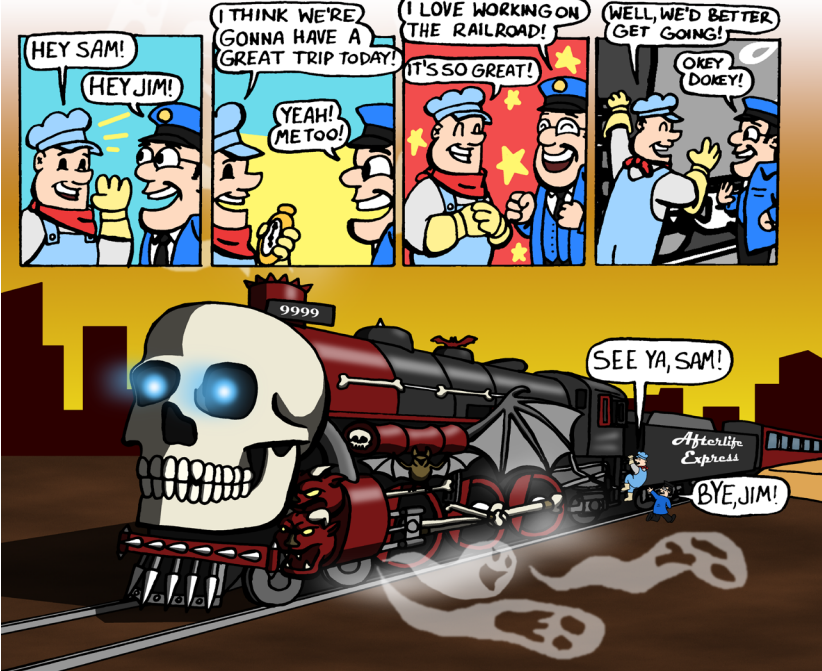
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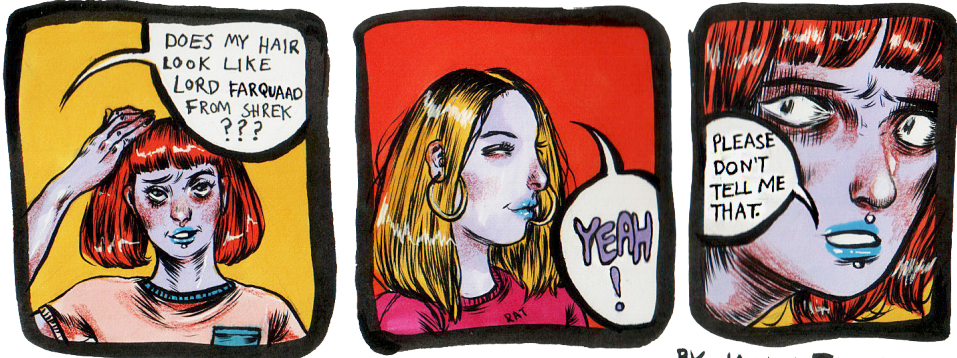
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SIAN RIPS



SCARY STORIES TO TELL @ LUNCH



BY JACKY TOVAR

Today's solution will appear here next issue

9	3		6		7
4	2	9		5	8
	7			3	
3			1		9
	5		3		4
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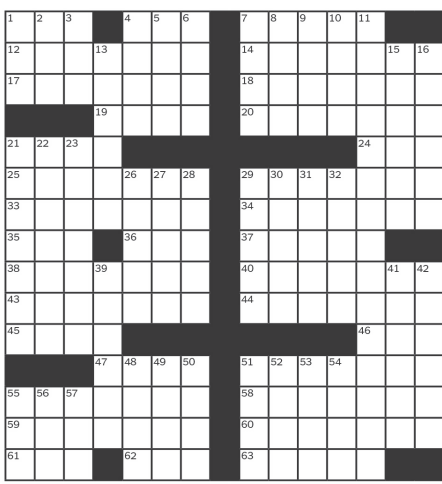
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3	1	8	7	9	6	5	2	4
6	9	4	8	2	5	1	3	7
9	2	3	6	8	1	7	4	5
7	8	6	5	3	4	2	1	9
1	4	5	9	7	2	3	6	8
5	3	9	1	4	7	6	8	2
8	6	2	3	5	9	4	7	1
4	7	1	2	6	8	9	5	3

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0112

- ACROSS**
- 1 Route follower
 - 4 Conference
 - 7 Word following 1-/4-Across, appropriately
 - 12 Not clued in
 - 14 The scandal of Watergate, essentially
 - 17 Its distance is measured within a meter
 - 18 Japanese flower-arranging art
 - 19 Going "Huh?!"
 - 20 Pours a certain way
 - 21 Brewing need
 - 24 Subject of some prep classes
 - 25 Vents frustration
 - 29 Some piano music
 - 33 Edwin M. _____, war secretary under Lincoln
 - 34 Slipped by
 - 35 Government stance on texting while driving
 - 36 Santa _____
 - 37 Word following 35-/36-Across, appropriately
 - 38 Throw on the floor
 - 40 How things typically are
 - 43 Lamebrains
 - 44 Fruity libation
 - 45 Give meds
 - 46 Ones attending to patients, for short
 - 47 Tiny bit
 - 51 Pity evoker
 - 55 Called from a stall, say
 - 58 Sequentially
 - 59 What you might accidentally try to put your head through when getting into a sweater
 - 60 Antacid brand
 - 61 "Dude!" stance on texting while driving
 - 62 doll
 - 63 Words following 61-/62-Across, appropriately
- DOWN**
- 1 "how?" (words of disbelief)
 - 2 Spanish article
 - 3 Instrument in swing
 - 4 Entree in a shell
 - 5 Some are named after presidents
 - 6 Something a shopaholic might be in
 - 7 Biting
 - 8 Put a finger on, in a way
 - 9 With, to Renoir
 - 10 Onetime CW sitcom
 - 11 It could carry a tune in the 1950s
 - 13 Big brand of sports equipment
 - 15 Savage
 - 16 Walloped
 - 21 Subject of an old wives' tale?
 - 22 Its postal codes start with K, L, M, N and P — but, oddly, not O
 - 23 Well-known octet
 - 26 Old video game maker
- ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE**
- | | | |
|----------|----------|-------|
| RONCO | DEEP | MDLI |
| ADORN | INRI | ROIS |
| GOTIT | VIAL | CUBA |
| ARACHNID | STUBBY | |
| SKEIN | ENABLES | |
| AGO | GLEAMER | ERO |
| PLUTO | CDROM | |
| POLO | BANOS | AFEW |
| | MCRAE | DRONE |
| BTW | AIRDATE | ODD |
| REALGNP | NACHT | |
| UNTIED | AGREESTO | |
| TASS | IDOL | ALTON |
| ACOP | SANI | SIEGE |
| LENS | IDEA | EXPOS |



- PUZZLE BY JOE KROZEL**
- 27 Coffee shop offering
 - 28 Hitches
 - 29 Times when musicians don't play
 - 30 Leader of the pack
 - 31 Ancient physician
 - 32 Pulling a prank outside a house
 - 39 Out of bed, in a way?
 - 41 Cleaned just before drying
 - 42 Atomic clock components
 - 48 "Well, I guess"
 - 49 Market's start?
 - 50 Gulf of _____ (waters off the coast of Djibouti)
 - 51 Voice-activated assistant
 - 52 Like Mr. X, but not Malcolm X
 - 53 Dummy
 - 54 Where annoying things stick
 - 55 Arrest
 - 56 Foozie
 - 57 "If you ask me ..." in texts
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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Longhorns stand on brink of history

By Dalton Phillips
@Dalton_Tweets

ESPN basketball analyst LaChina Robinson called No. 8 Texas “the hottest team in the nation.” Her assessment stands tough to question given the run that head coach Karen Aston’s squad has put together. The Longhorns earned NCAA Team of the Week honors for a trio of wins over the past eight days, including Monday’s double-over-time upset against No. 4 Florida State. Texas continues conference play on Saturday at 1 p.m. in Norman, Okla., looking to use the momentum of a 19-game win streak to capture its first road win against the Sooners since February 2010.

“We’re really in tune with each other right now,” junior guard Brooke McCarty said in her interview with Robinson on ESPN earlier this week. “If you watch us on the court, you can tell that we’re really just feeding off of each other and feeding off each other’s energy.”

McCarty’s performance has been nothing short of spectacular throughout the season, ranking fourth in the Big 12 in three-point percentage and second in assist-to-turnover ratio — a statistic Aston highlighted as a key to the team’s elevated play.

“I really think our biggest growth has been our understanding of the assist-turnover ratio and our improvement



Gabriel Lopez | Daily Texan Staff

Junior guard Brooke McCarty charges past a Kansas State defender in the Longhorns’ 63-58 win against the Wildcats on Feb. 4. McCarty aims to lead her team to its first conference sweep in program history.

in that area,” Aston said. “It’s been dramatic; probably the last five or six games, it’s really been improved.”

McCarty has been the driving force behind much of the recent success, both as Texas’ primary ball handler and team leader in minutes played. The junior boasts a 2.5 assist-to-turnover ratio while pouring in a team-high 14.5 points per contest.

No. 19 Oklahoma enters

Saturday’s matchup with a four-game win streak and sits at third in the Big 12 with an 11–3 record. The two programs met for the first time this season at the Frank Erwin Center, where freshman guard/forward Joyner Holmes bullied her way to 20 points and 10 rebounds en route to an 86-68 victory. Texas closed the game on a 20-4 run after leading by a single basket with under five minutes left

in regulation.

The matchup will mark the Longhorns’ third game against a top-20 team in their last four outings. With only four games left in the regular season, a win in Norman pushes Texas to the brink of completing the first conference sweep in program history.

Looking back on their tumultuous 2–4 start, the now 21–4 Longhorns recognize the value of the rigorous

non-conference schedule in preparing them for a drawn out season. In her interview with Robinson, McCarty acknowledged the role those early losses had in forcing the young team to improve quickly.

“I think those games were really beneficial to us in the offseason, because they kind of got us ready for conference play and got us ready to play those big teams we have coming ahead,” McCarty said.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Time running out for Longhorns to realize potential

By Shane Lewis
@theREALsplewis

After Tuesday night’s loss against Oklahoma, senior forward Shaquille Cleare refused to believe that Texas had reached its full potential.

“This team is not even close to peaking,” Cleare said. “We’re a lot better than how we’ve been playing.”

The Longhorns (10–16, 4–9 Big 12) are running out of opportunities to prove they are better than their record indicates.

With only five games remaining until the Big 12 tournament, the Longhorns are in real danger of finishing the season under .500 for the first time since 2013.

Texas enters this weekend’s rematch with Kansas State as losers in three of the last four games and has shown its inability to correct the problems that have hindered the team all season.

The Longhorns rank second to last in the Big 12 in both assists and points per game, a byproduct of the lack of an effective playmaking guard. Texas also continues to struggle shooting the rock, ranking dead last in the

conference in three-point and free-throw percentages.

The team has dwindled near the bottom of the league in these categories since conference play started.

After few signs of improvement, it may be time to admit the Longhorns’ issues are intertwined in their DNA.

Still, head coach Shaka Smart agrees with Cleare that the team hasn’t peaked; its progress just hasn’t translated off the practice court yet.

“You get angry about certain plays and certain situations where something is going well in practice, in terms of execution and game plan, and it doesn’t carry over,” Smart said. “We just have to fix it and be better.”

The Longhorns have a prime opportunity to fix some of their issues against the Wildcats. Kansas State enters the contest in a major slump, having lost six of its last seven games. During the span, the team has struggled putting the ball in the hole, averaging only 68 points per game.

Kansas State has also suffered from lackluster defensive efforts. The team has surrendered 85 or more points in

three of its last five matches, after only doing so twice in 21 games prior.

Despite the squad’s recent struggles, Kansas State head coach Bruce Weber feels confident about his team going into its match up with Texas.

“You have got tough times, you have got adversity,” Weber said after Tuesday’s loss to Iowa State. “You have got to rise up and have some character and toughness down the stretch. I feel good about our guys. We are going to come back on Saturday and play at a high level.”

When the two teams first linked up in late December, the Wildcats came away with a tight 65-62 victory. But a lot more is on the line this time around.

Kansas State finds itself squarely on the NCAA Tournament bubble. With wins over conference elites Baylor and West Virginia, the Wildcats want to shake off their recent stretch and continue to add to their résumé.

Smart acknowledged Kansas State’s position and admitted it changes the game’s dynamics.

“Where a team is in the sea-



Joshua Guerra | Daily Texan Staff

Senior forward Shaquille Cleare protects the ball against the Sooners during Texas’ 66-70 loss on Tuesday night. Cleare and his team still hope to win against Kansas State on Saturday despite facing season-long woes.

son is a very relevant factor,” Smart said. “(Kansas State) is going to be highly motivated to be in a position to come in here to get a win against us.”

The Longhorns can hurt the Wildcats’ tournament hopes and help validate Cleare’s assertion at 1 p.m. on Saturday at the Frank Erwin Center.

BASEBALL

Texas welcomes Pierce for opening night with Rice

By Alex Briseno
@AlexxBriseno

The anticipation of a new era ends tonight.

Texas faithful will pour into UFCU-Disch Falk Field to experience the hype that has surrounded the Longhorns following the hire of head coach David Pierce. Pierce’s debut in the Texas dugout starts Friday at 6:30 p.m.

Pierce brings with him a style much different than the “Augie Ball” Texas became accustomed to after 20 seasons with former head coach Augie Garrido. Even so, one thing remains constant: high expectations.

“The expectation for Texas

baseball is not only to get to Omaha, but to win in Omaha,” junior catcher Michael Cantu said. “It’s always to win and to win now. It doesn’t matter who’s the coach or what players there are. It’s Texas baseball, and we’re expected to be in Omaha every year.”

As Texas prepares for opening day, Pierce’s coaching debut happens to be against Rice, a ball club that won the College World Series in 2003 when he was the hitting coach for the Owls.

“I wouldn’t say it’s more special, but to me it’s somewhat ironic that we’re opening up with them,” Pierce said. “The competition all weekend is going to be fierce on both sides.

They’ve got a very solid team coming off the regional finals.”

The longtime in-state rival is coming off yet another NCAA Tournament run, which marks its 22nd consecutive tournament appearance. But tough matchups aren’t anything new for the Longhorns.

“They’re legit. They’re a great opponent, and they’re going to come in here ready to swing first, and they’re going to give us their best,” Cantu said. “Being Texas, you’re always going to get everyone’s best. Them being such a good opponent and in-state rival, it’ll be fun.”

BASEBALL page 5





Gabriel Lopez | Daily Texan Staff

Junior catcher Michael Cantu swings for the fences and joins his team in welcoming head coach David Pierce for his first opening night with Texas against Rice on Friday.

SIDELINE

NHL

	STARS
	1
	WILD
	3

NBA

	WIZARDS
	111
	PACERS
	98

TODAY IN HISTORY

2001

Point guard Baron Davis sinks an 89-foot three-pointer to set the record for the longest shot scored in NBA history.

TOP TWEET



D’Onta Foreman
@D33_foreman

“Everyone has an opinion — but understand that their opinion won’t always be the same as yours — so respect it! It’s only an opinion...”

SPORTS BRIEFLY

Women’s golf looks for win in New Orleans

In the city known as “The Big Easy,” life is anything but that. The unique people of New Orleans work hard and overcome adversity in order to achieve their desires.

The same can be said of this year’s crop of Longhorns.

It will be fitting to see Texas play in a gritty city when it partakes in the 2017 Allstate Sugar Bowl Intercollegiate at English Turn Golf and Country Club in New Orleans early next week.

Halfway through the 2016-2017 season, the Longhorns have been rock-solid, never finishing worse than fourth overall as a team at every tournament thus far.

With one tournament victory under their belt at the Lady Paladin Invitational at Furman University Golf Club, the Longhorns are looking to add another team triumph to their résumé this weekend.

The strength of this Longhorn club will be put to the test as they prepare to face Stanford, Florida and Arizona, along with several other highly competitive teams.

Success has come in the form of freshmen Greta Volker and Emilee Hoffman — both top-50 players in the nation — who are keeping pace with the high bars they set for themselves earlier in the year.

Junior Sophia Schubert averages just over 72.5 strokes per round this year, while senior Haley Mills is coming off her best performance of the year. Moving forward, the Longhorns look to rely on their upperclassmen to carry the team to success.

The tournament is set to begin Sunday and will run through Tuesday, Feb. 21.

—Travis Hlavinka

MOVIE REVIEW | 'THE GREAT WALL'

Controversy-laden 'Great Wall' falls down

By Justin Jones
@justustin42

Whitewashing controversy has dogged the Chinese-American co-production "The Great Wall" since its announcement, but the most repulsive element of the movie is its laziness and fear of innovation. As acclaimed Chinese auteur Zhang Yimou's first English-language film, it proves immensely disappointing — a drab, muddled mess with a few shining moments of beautiful action.

In the past few years, debate over corporate meddling in the artistic process has plagued many films, including "Suicide Squad" and "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story." Though a different sort of controversy followed "The Great Wall" during its promotional cycle, the defining characteristic of the movie is an obvious struggle between a visionary director and producers' demands.

The casting controversy comes from Matt Damon, who stars as William, an 11th-century mercenary from somewhere in Britain.

Though it provides a decent historical explanation for his presence, "The Great Wall" devotes an inordinate amount of time to justifying itself and comes off as the filmmakers bending over backward to serve a potential American audience.

The plot of the movie is set in motion when William and his Spanish companion Tovar (Pedro Pascal) travel to China in search of gunpowder and come upon the Great Wall of China and a massive medieval Chinese army led by female Commander Lin Mae (Tian Jing). The army detains the two Europeans upon arrival, and they find another captured Englishman (Willem Dafoe), who also has absolutely no place in this film. From there, "The Great Wall" does not have much of a plot, with most of the story revolving around the Europeans attempting to escape while massive battles against invading hordes of green dragon-monsters rage around them.

The straightforward plot should work to the movie's advantage, allowing Yimou to focus on his two

strengths: character development and action. Unfortunately, both of these fall short, with only Tovar and Lin Mae, the film's breakout star, providing any heart. Damon's wooden performance as William continuously weighs it down, as he makes unearned leaps from selfish coward to brave hero.

Director Yimou has an illustrious history of beautiful, colorful films, especially his recent action epics, which set the camera far back and allow the vibrant, inventive fight scenes play out with a sense of gravity. Unfortunately, "The Great Wall" turns Yimou's style down from a 10 to about a six. Two standout action sequences miraculously made their way into the film — a tense fog battle and a beautiful sequence set in a stained-glass tower — but these are the exception, not the norm.

In a blatant attempt to appeal to Western viewers, the potential visual novelty of the film is abandoned in favor of a style that feels too much like an average superhero film. The army of Chinese soldiers has



Courtesy of Legendary Entertainment

Legendary Chinese director Zhang Yimou cannot overcome the shackles of the studio system in "The Great Wall."

color-coded sections, including blue, red and purple soldiers, but the hues are so dim they become difficult to tell apart. The colors, especially subdued in 3-D, look like they were run through an Instagram filter and then edited by the people who made the grim "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice."

The mediocrity of "The Great Wall" stems from its by-committee creation, with six credited writers and funding from four studios — including one owned by the Chinese state. When many filmmakers from different backgrounds collaborate on a movie, it can either become greater than the sum of its parts or feel like a work divided. "The Great Wall" is the latter, an odd mix of writers ticking off the

"THE GREAT WALL"

Rating: PG-13
Runtime: 103 minutes
Score: ★★★

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boxes of American and Chinese studio demands and the beautiful Zhang Yimou film that lies buried beneath it all.

FOOD REVIEW | THE BEER PLANT



Brooke Crim | Daily Texan Staff

The Beer Plant's menu includes the Banh Fire, a hoagie with carrots, serrano peppers, siracha mayo, sliced avocado and peanuts. The restaurant also has 40 beers on tap.

Vegan gastropub shines with spiced-up, satisfying cuisine

By Stephen Acevado
@TheDailyTexan

Though he's enjoyed careers in higher education, psychotherapy and construction, Ray McMackin's true passions have always been beer and vegan food. At his new gastropub, The Beer Plant, McMackin finally has the opportunity to make a living off those things.

"I've been eating vegan for 35 years, vegetarian for 45 years, and I've probably been drinking beer for about 50 years," McMackin said. "So I'm combining my two biggest passions with this project."

The Beer Plant offers a full menu of vegan appetizers, entrées and desserts as well as an extensive craft cocktail menu and over 40 beers on tap. The menu items are the result of collaboration between McMackin and vegan chef Lou Mustachio. McMackin said the process of getting The Beer Plant open this year was a multi-year process of full-time planning.

"I had a particularly steep learning curve, because I had never worked in the food industry before," McMackin said. "Thankfully we brought together a great staff with a solid background in food to get this on the right track."

The Beer Plant's mission is to help mainstream plant-

based eating and make vegan food approachable for everyone. McMackin attracts non-vegans to his restaurant by making a point of offering supple meals that will satisfy an adult's hunger.

"We want to have food that's very tasty and hearty," McMackin said. "We don't want to be scaring people off with light servings of rabbit food."

The food at The Beer Plant is satisfying in a way that vegan food usually isn't for omnivores. The menu's indisputable highlight, the buffalo cauliflower wing basket, is a dish that's become popular among vegans and vegetarians over the past couple of years but has been perfected by the folks at The Beer Plant. A generous breading, house-made buffalo sauce and nut-based bleu cheese dip all come together to get these hunks of cauliflower as close to the flavor of a real chicken wing as humanly possible.

A more ambitious menu item is the vegan take on a gyro. The slices of lamb meat are replaced with garlic rosemary seitan and topped with a combination of fresh vegetables and house-made tzatziki sauce. This vegan gyro is a tasty sandwich, but it doesn't really exhibit similar flavor to an actual gyro. The smokiness and garlic in the seitan stawnd out far past the other ingredients, making it clear that you're

not really eating a gyro.

While the seitan and tofu used in various dishes are undoubtedly tasty, The Beer Plant really shines when it uses firm vegetables as a meat substitute instead of a nut or soy-based product.

The reubeneseque, which is their take on a reuben sandwich, is a particularly good example of this. The chunks of smoked portobello work as an exceptional substitute for meat, and they are perfectly complemented by the sauerkraut and tomato chutney included in the sandwich. Again, it doesn't really taste like a reuben when all is said and done, but it still makes great use of a powerful mix of flavors.

The sides, while admittedly simple, are also done The Beer Plant's healthier way. The fries, which are fried in sunflower oil, have a great fresh taste and ideal crunchy-to-soft ratio. What really puts them over the top, though, is the house-made ketchup that comes with them. The flavor of freshly pureed tomato tastes much better on a fry than any processed ketchup I've tried in my day.

The Beer Plant does a good job of making vegan food accessible for vegans and carnivores alike. The carefully planned menu, relaxing atmosphere and sizable alcohol selection make this a great spot for grabbing your weekly plant-based meal.

FEATURE

Law professors find romance amidst human rights battle



By Acacia Coronado
@acaciatree18

As the council convened to bring the fight against human rights infractions by the Guatemalan government to court, clinical professors of law Denise Gilman and Ariel Dultizky teamed up to bring justice to the Guatemalan people — and fell in love in the process.

In September 1995, Gilman, an American lawyer working for the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in D.C., and Dultizky, an Argentine lawyer employed by a litigating organization bringing human rights cases to court, sat at the same council table in San Jose, Costa Rica at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. They combined their knowledge of human rights and immigration in order to help victims of human right violations in Guatemala.

"From the very beginning when we started dating, I felt something much stronger than any other relationship I had been in before," Dultizky said. "I was attracted from the very first time I saw Denise."

After meeting in Guatemala, Gilman went back to her life in D.C. and Dultizky stayed in Costa Rica. However after Dultizky found a job in D.C., they soon began dating. In December 1996, when they were headed on a plane to visit Dultizky's family in Argentina, he first brought up the idea of getting married.

"It was not a proposal, but it was more of 'do you think we could get married' or something like that," Dultizky said. "I was just checking the waters."

At first, Dultizky was worried that the cultural gap between their nationalities and the differences between his Jewish faith and her Lutheran beliefs would put a strain on their relationship, but their shared line of professions helped them overcome their dissimilarities.

"We hung out a lot," Gilman said. "Yes, I think there was a cultural gap, but we were in a context (that) was cross-cultural, and a lot of people had a similar foundation in their lives and in their work, so it wasn't that dramatic."

Although Dultizky said he was worried about what his family would think, they were very welcoming of his new love.

"When they met Denise, they really liked her from the very beginning," Dultizky said. "They saw that I

was really happy and that Denise was very good company for me. I always say that they like more Denise than me now."

He proposed to her on their first anniversary as a couple in April 1996. In 1998, they celebrated their first part-Lutheran and part-Jewish wedding at the church where Gilman grew up in Austin. The ceremony was uniquely designed by them and included bible readings, elements from each of their religious traditions and poetry.

"I was in Colombia and picked up a poetry book, and (later) I said, 'Hey, I was thinking about this poem,' and he said, 'I was thinking about that one too,'" Gilman said.

Twenty-one years and two ceremonies later, the poem they read at their wedding — "Te Quiero" by Mario Benedetti, about a couple fighting for social justice — seemed to foreshadow their future. They continue to fall in love with each other as they brainstorm, collaborate and argue about cases in their daily lives.

"When I am in my office, I know that Denise is here because I can hear her laugh," Dultizky said. "I can't hear what she is saying, but I know she is here. Denise is very, very sweet. She is a great mother and I really love her."



Juan Figueroa | Daily Texan Staff

Clinical professors of law Denise Gilman and Ariel Dultizky's mutual fight for social justice continues to be a driving force in their marriage. Gilman and Dultizky met while helping victims of human rights violations by the Guatemalan government in 1995.